

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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It's YOUR Newspaper

PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR  
Valley President Tyree Wieder

## President Announces Retirement

BY ASTRID SEIPELT AND  
KRISTEN BECKER  
STAFF WRITERS

In an e-mail Tuesday, Valley College President Tyree Wieder announced to the college community that she is retiring from her duties June 30 after 14 years in the position.

"I feel that I have made a contribution to the college, but there is a time for new ideas and leadership," Wieder said.

She started her Valley career in 1990 as vice president of academic affairs and moved to the president's office in 1994. She spent 34 years working for community colleges.

"When the average tenure of a community college president in California is just three years and she's served 14 years, you know she'll be missed," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services.

see *President* page 2

## New Cafeteria Has Another New Manager

BY SARAH BISHOP  
OPINION EDITOR

Students at Valley College have a few more food options since Eric Dean, the new manager, took over, but many of the choices offered in the cafeteria's signage are still a few weeks away.

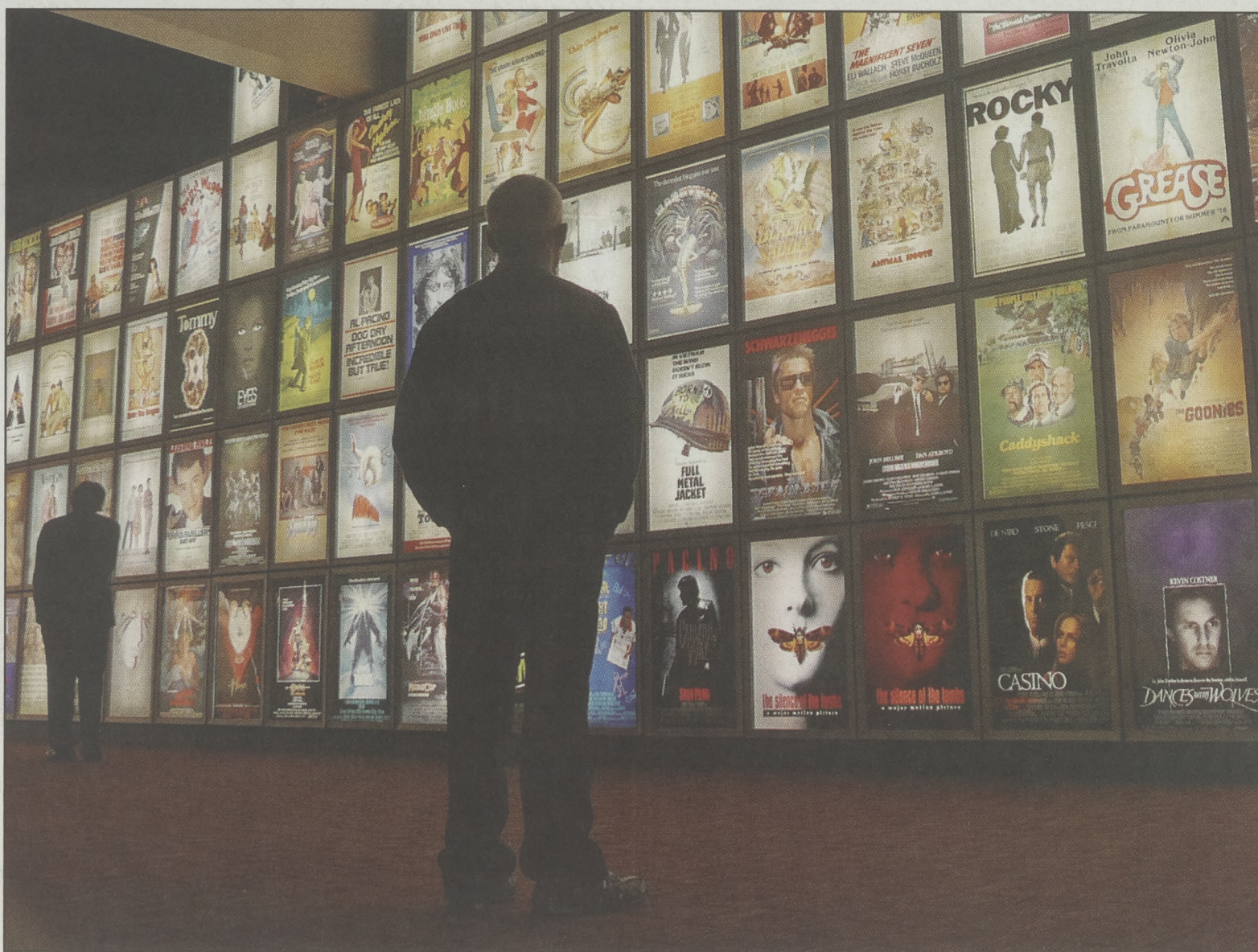
The cafeteria is divided into sections where foods inspired by different cuisine are supposed to be available. The menus advertising the food have been up since the beginning of the semester when Integrated Support Solutions Inc. took over, but the menus have yet to be implemented.

Dean, who replaced the previous manager, Jeff Olin four weeks ago, got to work the moment he started. By Oct. 22, just under a week after he arrived at Valley, he had the Jalapeño Grill portion of the cafeteria cooking.

"It's sold pretty well so far, actually better than I thought since we don't really have much signage up for it.

see *Cafeteria* page 2

## ARCLIGHT IN THE S.O.G.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR  
**PUTTING THE STRIKE ON HOLD** - While the TV and movie writers continue their strike, the new Arclight Cinemas in the Sherman Oaks Galleria attracted movie fans to see films that are already written and produced. A unique feature at the Valley Arclight is a wall of classic movie posters. For a review of the newly-opened theater, see the Valley Life page.

JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

**GETTING IN THE GROOVE** - Ray Today of the local band Los Arambula blew his heart out at the CALPIRG sponsored Rock the Vote event held in Monarch Hall Thursday.

## Voting Rocks Valley

BY JAMES BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students assembled en masse at the CalPIRG Voting Rocks concert Thursday in Monarch Hall to move their feet, and pens. The shindig featured six distinct concert acts, a voter information booth, faculty and student speeches, a poetry reading, and pizza, drinks and chips for all. During the event, 55 attendees registered to vote and 154 "pledge to vote" cards were filled out for those wishing to be reminded to hit the polls come February 5. The hot-button issues at hand were youth apathy, voter registration, and Prop. 92.

"How are we going to gal-

vanize people if they're more concerned about their iPods and Xbox's?" asked Chicano Studies professor Pete Lopez. "The weapons of mass deception are keeping us from the ballot boxes. Get involved, stay involved."

CalPIRG intern Andrenna Hidalgo worked the voter information booth throughout the evening, educating potential ballot-droppers. "This is a really diverse election. [People] have been especially interested in the lesser known candidates."

Her information didn't fall on deaf ears; "This is my first time getting active," admitted Valley student Lauren Lees.

see *Voting* page 2

## Growing up in a Same-Sex Family

Children and parents from same-sex families discuss the realities they experience.

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students gathered for a Same-Sex Parenting Forum Nov. 13 that discussed families with same-sex parents. Approximately 40 people attended. The event was hosted by the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual and Questioning Club and included a video presentation and a panel of guests who shared their experiences both as children and parents in same-sex families.

"Everyone has their opinion about [gay and lesbian parents], but a lot of people don't ask the children themselves about their experience," said Tiffany Lanoix, the forum's moderator, and faculty

advisor for the LGBTQ Club and teacher in the sociology and student ethics department.

The first half of the event featured "Caught in the Crossfire," a 30-minute documentary told from the perspective of children of gay parents.

The film documented the opinions and challenges of children from five different gay and lesbian families. Many of the children in the video grew up in heterosexual parenting environments until one of the parents decided to come out. The minors expressed emotions ranging from love, anger and acceptance, to the fear of having parents killed, and the trauma of being singled out by peers.

"When [my mom and her part-

ner] went out, she was my auntie," said Aleah Daniels, a child of lesbians, during the question and answer segment that followed the film. "I would write little notes, 'I hate you I want you to go to hell.' It was really hard for me; it was just my rebellion."

Attendants were given index cards in case they felt uncomfortable asking questions in front of the audience, while others felt comfortable raising their hands.

The discussion addressed several issues concerning society's preconceived notions of homosexuality and gay and lesbian parenting.

Amanda Litwin, a child of a

see *Families* page 2

JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

**OPENING MINDS** - Tiffany Lanoix, professor in the Sociology Department, moderated the LGBTQ sponsored group discussion about same sex parenting in Monarch Hall Tuesday Nov. 13.

## Basketball Brawl

BY JAMES BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

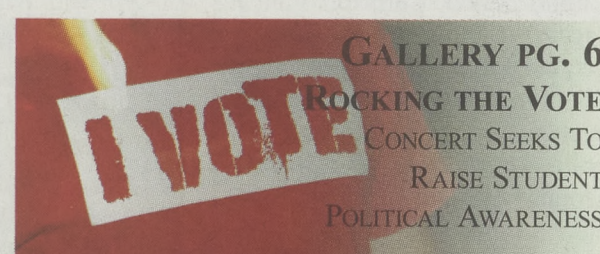
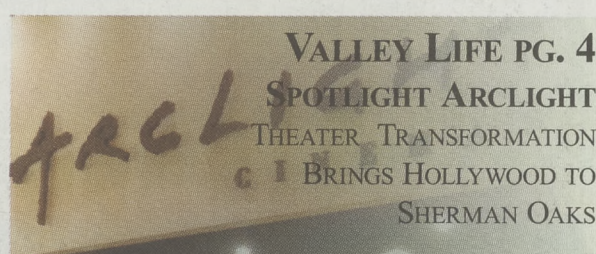
The players, coaching staff, and conference refused to talk about a fight that erupted moments after the women's basketball season opener. The Lady Monarchs suffered a post-game attack at the hands of the LA Harbor College women's basketball team Nov. 7.

The altercation involved three members of Valley College's basketball team.

The Valley Star has been continuously denied information pertaining to the melee, with unanswered phone calls and no-reply emails to the Western State Conference, Valley's coaching staff, and the players themselves.

The Western State Conference suspended Monarch forwards Juanita Lewis, Janisha King, and guard La'Day Venson for three games and barred Harbor from participating in a tournament.

The brawl occurred shortly after a 76 - 39 Monarch triumph. The Harbor Seahawks failed to score throughout the majority of the second half while the Monarchs rallied a 30-point streak. The Seahawks appeared flustered by the unfavorable

see *Basketball* page 2



## 'Basketball'

continued from page 1

tides of the game, but their foul rate did not reflect their discontentment. The game progressed normally without any technical fouls or colorful language.

The Valley Star has attained conflicting reports of what transpired. According to Dericka

Johnson, an 18-year-old sports training major and Monarch forward "[the] whole team got out of their van, and they were jumping on our girls, even the coaches."

Ladell Hill, Harbor's basketball coach asserts Valley instigated the confrontation. "By the time we were walking to our vans, one of the Valley girls had exchanged words with one of our girls," she said. "The funniest

thing was, the girl wasn't even from the team, she was the one recording the game."

Officials from the Western State Conference have refused to comment on the event, and made no mention of the fight, or subsequent suspensions on their news page or schedule. The majority of Lady Monarchs refused to comment on the incident, as did members of the Harbor team.

## 'President'

continued from page 1

Wieder stated that over the next few months, she will continue to work with the Education/Strategic Master Plan Committee, which is in charge of revising and expanding the curriculum.

"This is quite a loss, not just for LAVC, but for the whole district," said Los Angeles Community College Deputy Chancellor Adriana Barrera. "[Wieder] served in that capacity for 14 years and during that time, she was a leader in the district."

She will ensure that the summer renovations for the humanities, math-science, engineering, theater, and planetarium facilities "will go as smoothly as possible." She plans to work with the team in charge of

improving the college's basic skills offerings and, with the "full college community" she will work to help "solve our budget challenges."

"I would have liked to have worked with her for a long time," said Sandy Mayo, Valley's vice president of academic affairs. "She really cares about Valley, the students and the community. LAVC is lucky to have her."

Wieder mentioned the development of the Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students that "really set the stage for student retention and faculty development" and the completion of "the first building in the bond program for the entire District" as being among her proudest accomplishments while president of Valley.

Wieder was raised in Los Angeles, attended Compton

Community College and earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and master's degree in educational psychology from CSUN. She later earned her Ph.D. in higher education from UCLA. She began her educational career when she accepted a position as a counselor at Moorpark College.

Wieder said that Tuesday's announcement to Chancellor Mark Drummond and the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, gives the board the opportunity to conduct a search and have a new president in place by July.

There are a lot of things I haven't been able to do because of the time commitment," Wieder said when talking about her plans for retirement. "I'll travel with my husband and enjoy the city."

## 'Cafeteria'

continued from page 1

The menu stuff, that's been up forever, so the people who wanted it before may not know that we've actually gotten it."

Dean says that within the next two to three weeks, they'll have Chinese and Italian food ready. However they will probably run on alternating days due to space constraints.

Raul Gonzalez, Assistant Vice President of Admissions, would like to see the other menus implemented. "They tell me they're getting everything up and running," Gonzalez said. He explained it is important to him because, "We want to have a variety of food available."

Students seem to be happy with the choices available so far.

"The food selection is actually quite good," said art major Sondra Roy. "I appreciate that they have the [prepared] sandwiches, because I have a twenty-minute break between classes, so I can just pick it up, eat my meal, and get to class."

"This one is very focused on what students want, which is different from the last store that was here," said Nazy Chiniforoushan, an EMT/

broadcasting major. "The food is a lot better, and I've actually been approached by the chefs asking me if the food was good or not, which is great."

The previous renter of the cafeteria space, Cadillac Grill, claims to have gone out of business at the school because they couldn't make a profit. So far, ISSI still has not made a profit either. They serve between four to six hundred people a day, but the average amount spent is about \$3. Dean hopes that the catering services they offer will help change that.

"We've been doing catering. We do sandwiches on focaccia bread, pasta salads, fruit salads, pizza, stuff like that," he said. "We're trying to show the people here that we're more committed and more organized than the previous people. We set it up really well, table clothes, silverware, the whole deal. It's more convenient I think for people on campus to do. We're just right here."

Dean also says that he is open to suggestions from the students and staff and has already put in orders for the most requested item.

"Monsters [Energy Drink], everyone wants Monsters," he said laughing.

## 'Families'

continued from page 1

lesbian mother and openly gay herself, talked about the effects social opinions had on her relationship with her mother.

"I would often be asked: 'don't you hate your mom for doing this to you?'" she said. "And for a long time I hated my mom for doing this. And then you get to a point where you say, 'I hate all those people outside of my family who made this a living Hell for me, that were ignorant, that said the most ridiculous things.' All my mom did was love us ... and I hated her for that?"

Alan M. Ceraves, a gay parent of two boys, 13 and 16, knows the discrimination that comes with having a same-sex family. He tries to protect them from society's pointing finger.

"I didn't expose them to two men walking in together and having everyone ask questions."

Ceraves explained his relief after finding his eldest son was not gay. "About two and a half months ago, I walked in on my oldest having sex, and ... one part of me wanted to jump up and say hallelujah." The audience interrupted with laughter. "In saying this, it almost sounds like I'm saying gay is bad, but I know how difficult it is."

Despite the consensus that prejudice against in the LGBT community is widespread, they all agreed that today's society, especially in California, is more tolerant. "More and more people are realizing, 'I can be gay, I can have a family, and I can be happy'" said Litwin.

Students interested in learning more about gay and lesbian issues can join the LGBTQ Club. Meetings are every Wednesday in Behavioral Sciences room 106 at 2:30.

## 'Voting'

continued from page 1

"Now that I'm informed, the issues are quite compelling."

John McDowell, the political director of the Los Angeles Faculty Guild contributed to the education of the voting public when he took the podium and preached the virtue of Proposition. 92. The ballot initiative seeks to reduce the price of community college units to \$15 a piece and limits annual fee increases to a maximum of \$1.

The proposition also entails an increase to the community college budget by diverting money from the state's general fund. The budget increase would take effect immediately, while the fee reduction would launch in the spring.

The business side of the event concluded with a poetry reading by Jason Morales, a Valley student who performed his own compositions: "Independent from the Sun" and "Self Realization."

Rick Haze, a man who once roamed the world with nothing more than an acoustic guitar and a bag of clothes opened the concert portion of Voting Rocks. Haze, a music/broadcasting major commented on the importance of civic involvement. "We should control the government, not have the government control us."

Los Arambula picked up the tempo with a post-punk repertoire that got Valley's voters on the dance floor. The rockfest continued with Blame the Noise, and Valley student George Elias, a 21-year-old journalism major gave the moshers a much-needed rest while he performed his own acoustic compositions. The event concluded with Bad Bruno, who infused their song's instrumental segments with repeated chants of "Rock the Vote" and a special guest appearance by solo artist White Chocolate.

"It's great to bring students and faculty members together and have a discussion about the importance of voting." Said Caitlin Parker, CalPIRG Valley organizer, "this is a fun way to get people registered to vote." She plans to continue hosting events, and aspires to bring a polling place onto the hallowed grounds of Valley College come election time.



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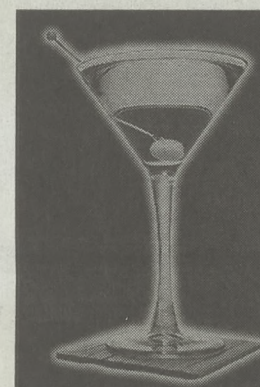
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# OPINION

3

## ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.  
THIS WEEK: THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

### Be Thankful to Reconnect

BY BRAD TAYLOR  
ONLINE EDITOR

Thanksgiving is more than just a speed bump in between Halloween and Christmas; it is a time to appreciate a world outside of our iPods and MySpace pages.

It is no secret that Americans are becoming more and more egocentric. Many of us are so wrapped up in our virtual worlds that we often times fail to step out into the real one. As students we also tend to get lost in our studies with little notice of the world off campus.

Thanksgiving gives us time to get together with family and friends whom we have probably been neglecting for months. Unlike the holiday that celebrates a certain baby and a saint with a bowl full of jelly, Thanksgiving doesn't require a trip to any church or a laundry list of gifts to get because television tells us to.

All Thanksgiving asks is for us to eat, drink and be merry, as well as take time to appreciate the wonderful things in our lives. Oh sure there is all that business with

Pilgrims and Indians, but that is a deeper discussion best left for History 005.

This year I will be turning off the computer and plugging the iPod into my stereo to share some Sinatra with my house guests while we pull out some board games that force us to ask inappropriate questions about one another. The television will be tuned to the "Macy's Thanksgiving Parade" where I will get my annual giant balloon fix.

Whatever I do during the day it will involve interacting with real people.

Giving thanks also does not require getting a tree or carving

a pumpkin. There are no Thanksgiving lights, costumes, or special ornaments that celebrate "baby's first Thanksgiving." Even Martha Stewart is hard pressed to design much of anything for the day, besides maybe a nice centerpiece made of gourds.

So I urge everyone on this holiday to take stock of the good things you have and give to those who have nothing. Your techno gadgets will be there tomorrow when you storm the mall for uber bar-

gains while text messaging and fighting for a parking space, but save Thanksgiving as a day to unplug, unwind and reconnect with friends and family.

### Only One Day of Thanks?

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK  
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving: the holiday that comes after Halloween and before Christmas that is just

another reason to take a vacation, get with family you probably haven't talked to in months, stuff your face with unbelievable amounts of food, and be "thankful" for everything in life.

I don't despise Thanksgiving because I'm not thankful. I am a very thankful person and appreciate all the things I have and cherish the people around me. There are 365 days a year and we should be thankful every day for everything - good and bad, because that is what makes us strong.

For Thanksgiving dinner, most get dressed up, drive to one family member's home to chit-chat with extended family members and catch up on what they've missed. After hours of senseless talking, the dinner table is filled with food that most don't even enjoy eating.

Turkey, yes we know it's a tradition, but most have not figured out for the life of them why turkey is the bird of choice for Thanksgiving. It's dry, hard to cook, and there is so much left-over, there's almost no doubt you'll be eating turkey sandwiches for weeks to come. Turkey is of course overloaded with undesirable, chewy stuffing, which for the most part, most people don't know specifically what's in it.

Another food item most eat only on turkey day: cranberry sauce. Who would voluntarily eat

canned, compressed fruit jam?

There are food items that most do like on a regular basis. Scrumptious, mouth-watering, home-made mashed potatoes are definitely one of them. There is nothing bad about mashed potatoes, unless you have thick, clumpy, gravy to go with them. Then, I pass, right on to corn on the cobb. There is absolutely nothing wrong with corn, except how the juice squirts all over when you bite into it or how it gets stuck in between your teeth.

To hit the spot, Thanksgiving dinner needs to end with a big slice of pie. Whether it's pumpkin, apple, or cherry pie, it's the only part of the meal worth looking forward to.

After you've had more than your stomach can handle, you must return to uncomfortable conversations which will probably fade from your memory within a week.

After all the eating and discussions are done and over, we go straight into shopping season for the next holiday gathering that most look forward to: Christmas.

This is not the only time of year we should realize how thankful we are. We should do that every day. Whether you're spending the holidays with friends or family, realize that you don't have to wait until Thanksgiving to tell your loved ones "Thanks."



COURTESY OF PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN

## CAMPUS View

What do you think of Thanksgiving?  
photos by Graciela Salgado



"It's a time to understand our values. [To know] at the end of the day you're with your family and everything looks good."

- David Jitechian, microeconomics



"I love it. It's the best time of the year, all the food that you want to eat and a lot of family bonding."

- Reggè Prince, psychology



"It's very good, the food, my family and friends. All of my family is going to get together and have a great time and listen to music."

- Yessenia Arechiga, undecided



"I like the fact that there's no work or school, but it means nothing to me since it has nothing to do with my culture."

- Arthur Pogosyan, business/accounting

## WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Are things on campus good or bad for you? Did you agree/disagree with anything in the paper? Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576.

Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication. They should be signed with your full name. Anonymous letters will not be published. Please include contact information.

## Gen. Musharraf's Government no Longer Viable

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

A constitution has been suspended, the powers of a Supreme Court withheld, a chief justice placed under house arrest, independent television channels have been blocked, political gatherings banned, and those who dared march in protest of these violations of civil rights placed behind bars. No, this is not a scene from "1984," this is all taking place in Pakistan under the command of President Pervez Musharraf.

In 2001 President George W. Bush declared General Musharraf an ally in the war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. But today his "friendship" is viewed with skeptical eyes and his actions reminiscent of a dictator. And America cannot support a dictator. Mr. Musharraf has been inefficient in dealing with

insurgents and has not lived up to his democratic promises, so the United States should refuse any support for his regime.

After being re-elected for another five-year presidential term in October 2007, Gen. Musharraf was to be confirmed on Nov. 15, followed by a fair general election on January of next year. But in a fit of fear that he should be made to resign his powers after the country's Supreme Court declared his re-election illegal, President Pervez Musharraf declared his country in state of emergency on Nov. 3.

The general justified his actions toward the Pakistani people by stating that "the emergency is to ensure elections go in an undisturbed manner" and that Pakistan is in a "disturbed terrorism environment" in an interview with the New York Times.

It is true that Islamic extremism has been growing in Pakistan, but

Mr. Musharraf has proved ineffectual in fighting insurgents, even with \$10 billion in aid from America.

According to the November issue of the 'Economist,' "On November 4th, as the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] ... released an aspiring suicide-bomber. His name is Sohail Zeb ... and he was sentenced to 24 years in jail last month after being arrested with two suicide belts. Mr. Zeb was one of 25 Taliban militants quietly returned to their commander, Baitullah Mehsud. In exchange, Mr. Mehsud released over 200 Pakistani soldiers, including officers, who surrendered to his fighters in August."

With all our military resources in Iraq, a country that had no connection to the terrorists who attacked us on 9/11, it is crucial to have Pakistan as an ally in the war against extremists. But Mr. Musharraf should no longer be this person. Preferably, it

should be someone who can gather support from the Pakistani people.

In a poll conducted in October and September of this year by the International Republican Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advances freedom and democracy worldwide, a majority of Pakistani voters believe that the president's performance in dealing with crime, terrorism, employment and law and order is poor.

Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan's People's Party, seems like a good option. The PPP is Pakistan's biggest party, and she has been on America's list of possible successors after clean elections are held next year. Musharraf has refused to engage in negotiations to share power with Bhutto, but with more Pakistanis realizing the extent of his dictatorship, the general should not remain in power for long.

## Kick Bad Snacks with a Sin Tax

BY ASTRID SEIPELT  
STAFF WRITER

Taxes are part of everyday life - but as much as we might not like it, the money that comes from our daily purchases helps pay for services we all use. Recently, the Democrats of the California Legislature proposed a \$2-a-pack tax on cigarettes in order to help pay for health insurance for 6.7 million Californians. But are they really taxing the right product?

We all know that smoking is a dirty habit that can lead to horrible health difficulties, so making it more expensive to suck down those cancer sticks is fine with me. But smoking is not the source of one of the biggest health problems the United States faces, obesity is.

So here is a plan for the legislature to try - introduce a snack tax. And while they are at it, they can tax other things that are a threat to our health, like Ann Coulter or visits from mothers-in-law.

According to the California Department of Health, only 13 percent of adults smoked as of mid-2007. Having a higher tax on something that less than a fifth of taxpayers use is incredibly lopsided. However, almost everyone enjoys the odd indulgence in refined sugar and artificial flavors.

I know it would work for me - If I saw the Toblerone that I've been eyeing in the bookstore had an extra \$2 tacked on the price, I would drop it and reach for the nearest leafy vegetable.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

Obesity is also a lot more noticeable in the population than smoking. The last time I went out, I saw more people spilling out of their jeans while wolfing down their favorite fast food than hacking up a lung due to their nicotine habit. And the saddest thing is when 10-year-old children are already sneaking their way into adult-sized clothing because Gap Kids just can't cope with their girth any more.

Foods that are battered, microwaved and fried for our convenience are sometimes the easiest thing to reach for when our stomachs are rumbling, but having a higher price tag on these fast foods would make most of us think twice about what is going in our bodies. By having a form of prevention for obesity and its related diseases, perhaps the state legislature wouldn't have to worry about having to cover the bill for treating it.



WEDNESDAY  
TO TUESDAY

What's New Online  
@ lavalleystar.com

"Lars and the Real Girl"  
By Astrid Seipelt

"Black Friday"  
By Eli Beltran

"Pushing Daisies"  
By Brad Taylor

Top 5 Stories Online @  
lavalleystar.com

Valley Welcomes Little Orphan  
Annie

Empire of Screen Writers Strike  
Back

Unable to Break Up Religion and  
Politics

Review- Dan in Real life

Without Writers- What's a Show

New DVD Releases:

Nirvana: Unplugged in New York

Hairspray

Live Free or Die Hard

Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause

Ocean's 13

Rescue Dawn

Led Zeppelin: the Sog Remains  
the Same

New CD Releases:

Amy Winehouse- Frank

Jordin Sparks- Jordin Sparks

Keith Urban- Greatest Hits

Freeway- Free at Last

Josh Groban- Noel CD

New Theatre Releases:

Enchanted  
Patrick Dempsey, Amy Adams

This Christmas  
Delroy Lindo, Chris Brown, Mekhi  
Phifer

August Rush  
Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers  
Robin Williams, Terence Howard

Stephen King's The Mist  
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Wednesday, November 21  
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Undecided Major/Career Workshop  
5:30-6:30

Monday, November 26  
College Application workshop 5:30-  
6:30  
UC Irvine Rep 10-2

Tuesday, November 27  
CSU Northridge Rep 10-1 and 5-7  
UC Santa Barbara Rep 10-1  
CSU Los Angeles Rep 5-7  
College Application Workshop 1-2

Wednesday, November 28  
Undecided Major/Career workshop  
5:30-6:30

Theatre Review

Sherman Oaks Arclight Glows Softly For Now

SARAH BISHOP  
OPINION EDITOR

If your family has already begun to annoy you this holiday season, consider joining the throngs of Americans participating in a favored aversion tactic: movies.

But, unlike the rest of the country, you have the option of seeing your film of choice at the new Sherman Oaks Arclight. All the glitz (and price tag) of Hollywood, right here in the Valley.

At \$12.75, almost \$5 more than other Los Angeles movie tickets and double the national average, the Arclight hopes that the comfortable chairs, the Kinoton projectors, sound that exceeds THX quality, the ability to choose your own seat when you buy your ticket, real orchids in the bathroom, and a man to remind you to get your parking ticket validated will make up the difference.

It certainly works in Hollywood, and from the looks of it, the Arclight will certainly have no problem flourishing in Sherman Oaks. Despite only being unofficially open a couple of days, the Arclight has already had about



PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**STEP RIGHT UP-** The new Arclight Cinemas complex has opened at the Sherman Oaks Galleria. The grand opening is scheduled in December. Right now five screens are showing movies. Eventually 16 auditoriums will be available. The complex features a restaurant, bar and a wide variety of foods at the concession.

1,500 moviegoers each day.

"We want people to come," said Jason Marc Schoener, operations manager. "We're still finishing construction so we're not doing any advertising. We don't have our clock up that Hollywood

is known for, the retail is being put together, and we still have our last 11 theaters [to complete]."

The much-anticipated second Arclight began a soft opening Nov. 16 after three months of construction after the Galleria 16 closed

in August of this year. Pacific, the Arclight's parent company is using this month to gear up for the holiday movie extravaganzas and the grand opening on Dec. 14.

Right now they are showing three different movies: 'American

Gangster', 'Beowulf', and 'No Country for Old Men' in five theaters. As the rest of the eleven theaters' renovations are completed, the movie and seating options will expand accordingly.

Jose Mendez, a Valley College film major working at the Arclight, says he's happy they opened the Sherman Oaks location.

"I like it because it's closer to school," he said.

Schoener also said that Pacific is trying to see how their amenities in Hollywood translate to a more residential neighborhood. Things like 21 and over showings where moviegoers can have a cocktail while they watch a fairytale unfold, and regular director Q & A and AFI screenings.

But Pacific Theatres has more going for it than the Arclight's specialty features: not much competition. They own the two closest theaters to the Galleria and can control what shows at all three.

But with high ceilings, high quality, stadium seating, bar, a restaurant, cafe, gift shop, and a wall of vintage movie posters they do a nice job of attracting folks anyway and making them feel like it's all worth it.

TOP 5: FEEL GOOD FILMS

BRAD TAYLOR, ONLINE EDITOR

Everyone has their favorite movie that they must watch when depressed; you know the one you hide from your friends when they come over. Put away that copy of "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle" and take a chance on these five films that are guaranteed to put a spring in your step.

5- Goonies (1985)

Directed by Richard Donner, a group of misfit kids go in search of hidden pirate treasure to save their neighborhood from an evil land developer, and hi-jinks ensue! This Steven Spielberg produced gem shines brightly for its high adventure content with giant pirate ships and booty traps. The best feature on the DVD is the not to be missed audio commentary by the now grown up kids.

4-Zoolander (2001)

Directed by and starring Ben Stiller, "Zoolander" is a fantastic look at male modeling gone horribly wrong. Will Ferrell steals the show as evil fashion designer Mugatu. His neurotic ticks and bizarre sense of fashion tear up the screen while his comedic timing is pitch perfect.

3-Auntie Mame (1958)

Based on the famous stage musical of the same name, this film is directed by Morton DaCosta and stars the amazing Rosalind Russel as the title character Mame Dennis,

the over the top aunt who takes in her now orphaned nephew. She introduces him to an outrageous world of excess and teaches him how to celebrate life to the fullest every day. Beware the musical film version called "Mame" starring Lucille Ball.

2-License to Drive (1988)

The penultimate movie featuring the Coreys-Haim and Feldman-and directed by Greg Beeman, is so bad, it's good comedy that will turn any frown upside down. What happens when a teen fails his driving test, but has a date with the hottest girl in school? He steals his parents car and goes anyway. A true precursor to such fine films as "Dude Where's My Car" and "Harold and Kumar go to White Castle," this often times atrocious film will make everything in your life seem so much better than they were before you pressed play.

1-To Wong Foo Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar (1995)

Beeban Kidron directed this cross-dressing, cross-country adventure with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo. They take on small-town life when their car breaks down on their way to Hollywood. It is hard to even imagine pitching this to a studio, let alone getting it get made. You would have to be made of stone not to cheer up a little after seeing Miss Noxema Jackson and Miss Vida Boheme teach little Chi Chi Rodriguez the steps to becoming a true queen. Did I mention that Wesley Snipes wears a fringe dress?



JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

**LONG LIVE ROCK-N-ROLL-**Jesse Foster from Pasadena is trying out Guitar Hero at Play-N-Trade, a video game store in Glendale.

FRETS OF FURY

ELI BELTRAN, STAFF WRITER

Not everyone was born to be a guitar god like Jimmy Hendrix, or to play guitar riffs like Slash, but with each new installment of "Guitar Hero," players may find it more difficult to believe that they are not rock stars themselves.

With the growing popularity of the series, many Valley College students find it hard to step away from the Gibson SG-inspired guitar controller.

"For many people in our generation their biggest passion is music, and they may like the music that's on [the game]," said Tony Solorio, a computer science major. "Some

exceeded \$100 million in North America.

The third installment also comes with battle mode, a which allows players to compete against each other.

"I like the fact that you can easily involve your friends," said Roger Arias, a mechanical engineering major. "My cousin also comes over and we play two to three times a week; it's a form of competition, we meet up and demonstrate our guitar skills."

"I play three to four hours a day," said Solorio. "I like to think that I'm good. I'm not hitting every single note perfectly, I just pass lazily, but it's good enough."

For a long time, musically inclined students have had to make the choice between rock star glory and education, now they can be rock stars between homework breaks.

Labertew Comes Full Circle at Valley

JESSICA RAWSTRON  
STAFF WRITER

Like a student coming home from a year abroad, armed with new knowledge, a whole lot of life experience and a new perspective, Denice Labertew has finally come home to Valley College. Although she may not be the prototypical college professor, behind her tattoos and extreme love for pets, she has quite the story to tell.

As a re-entry student, Denice started at Valley in 1992 while pregnant with her son. At Valley, she prepared for transfer to Cal State Northridge, where she later received a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in women's studies. Labertew then decided to pursue law school at the People's College of Law in Los Angeles, a progressive, collective law school founded in the midst of the 70s during the local union and Civil Rights Movements.

Today Labertew is working for an organization called Peace Over Violence, a

sexual and domestic violence crisis agency. She started as a volunteer and 13 years later is now the director of programs for the West San Gabriel Valley and director of the Legal Advocacy Project. The organization was founded for the purpose of building healthy relationships and communities free from sexual, domestic and interpersonal violence.

"As a girl who grew up poor with a single mom, I quickly learned that I needed to speak for myself or no one else would," she said. I couldn't bear to exist in a world where poor people, women, people of color, members of the LGBT community and many others continued to be oppressed, without speaking up."

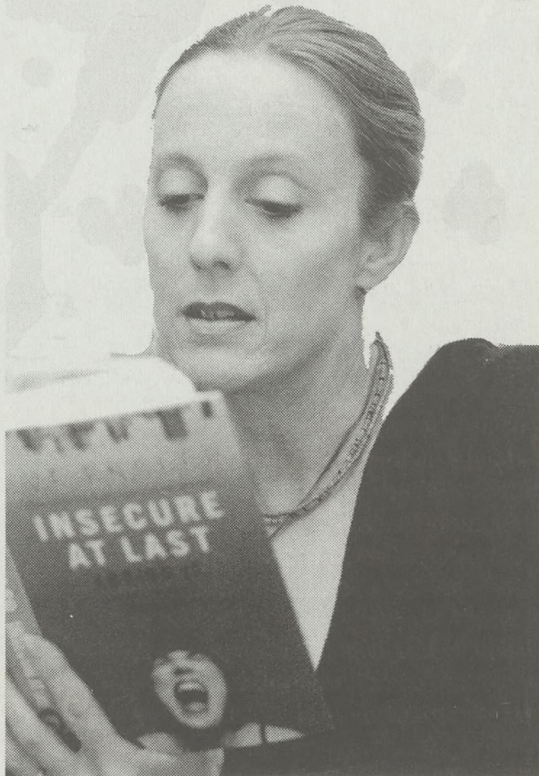
Not only is she working to help others use their voice; Labertew has also recently entered the world of teaching. She taught her first sociology class at Mission College over the summer, and is now back at Valley 15 years later, co-teaching Women's Sociology with Pat Allen, a class that she took as a student some years ago.

Labertew's student Morgan Walsh, remarked, "I think Denice is an inspiration to all women looking to have our voice heard, she's really taught us how to make it possible."

"It feels a bit like coming home. When I was a student at Valley, I learned some of the most important lessons of my life," said Labertew. Of course I learned course content, but more importantly I learned that I had the ability to go on to do amazing things."

When she's not behind her desk or lecturing in the classroom, Denice has a 14-year old son, Jeremy and a partner of 10 years, Kimberly. She loves to spend time in her garden, her house full of adopted pets, and has recently developed a love for belly dancing.

When thinking about future goals, Denice shared, "I would love to keep teaching, maybe even at Valley someday. My dream is to come full circle, to come back to where it started for me, at community college."



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

**Read To Me-** Denice Labertew reads to Sociology 22 students at Valley College.



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WESTERN STATE  
CONFERENCE WOMEN'S  
VOLLEYBALL REPORTWSC VOLLEYBALL  
STANDINGS

NORTH	WSC
Cuesta	8-0
Ventura	4-4
Santa Barbara	4-4
Moorpark	4-4
Allan Hancock	0-8

SOUTH	WSC
Pierce	10-0
Bakersfield	7-3
Canyons	7-3
Citrus	4-6
Santa Monica	2-8
Glendale	0-10

## LAVC Schedule

## Men's Basketball

Nov. 23-24  
Moorpark College Tournament  
@ Moorpark

## Women's Basketball

Nov. 23-25  
Pierce College Tournament  
@ PierceOfficial state stats  
online - Go to  
[www.coasports.org](http://www.coasports.org)

## WSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Downward Spiral Continues for Lady Monarchs

JOSH SPENCE  
SPORTS EDITOR

With the holiday season approaching, the Valley College women's basketball team felt the spirit of the season and gave its latest home game away to Irvine Valley College, 82-48.

Turnovers and fouls defined the Monarchs' efforts on Saturday as the team succumbed to an early 13-0 Lasers' run while fouling them five times within the first five minutes of the half.

"We played bad tonight," said guard Mariam Asaryan. "We need to be more intense overall."

**"The girls are going to get there, it just takes time."**

- head coach Ruth Seja

The Lasers took the lead and never looked back. By penetrating the Monarchs' zone defense, Irvine had an endless array of open shots and easy layups. The visiting team's strong inside presence also led to a big advantage on the boards.

When the Lasers weren't establishing the inside game, the perimeter sharpshooters fired at will, scoring 30 points from beyond the arc.

Valley's 26-point loss was the result of poor offensive play, a few traveling calls and offensive fouls. Things went from bad to worse when the Monarchs were called for a lane violation, forfeiting their free throw attempts, ending the half with a whimper.

During the second half, the Monarchs endured another scoring run by the visitors, this time 11-0. Abandoning their game-long commitment of establishing a low-post game, head coach Ruth Seja opted for a perimeter offense, hoping to bridge the gap with three point shots.

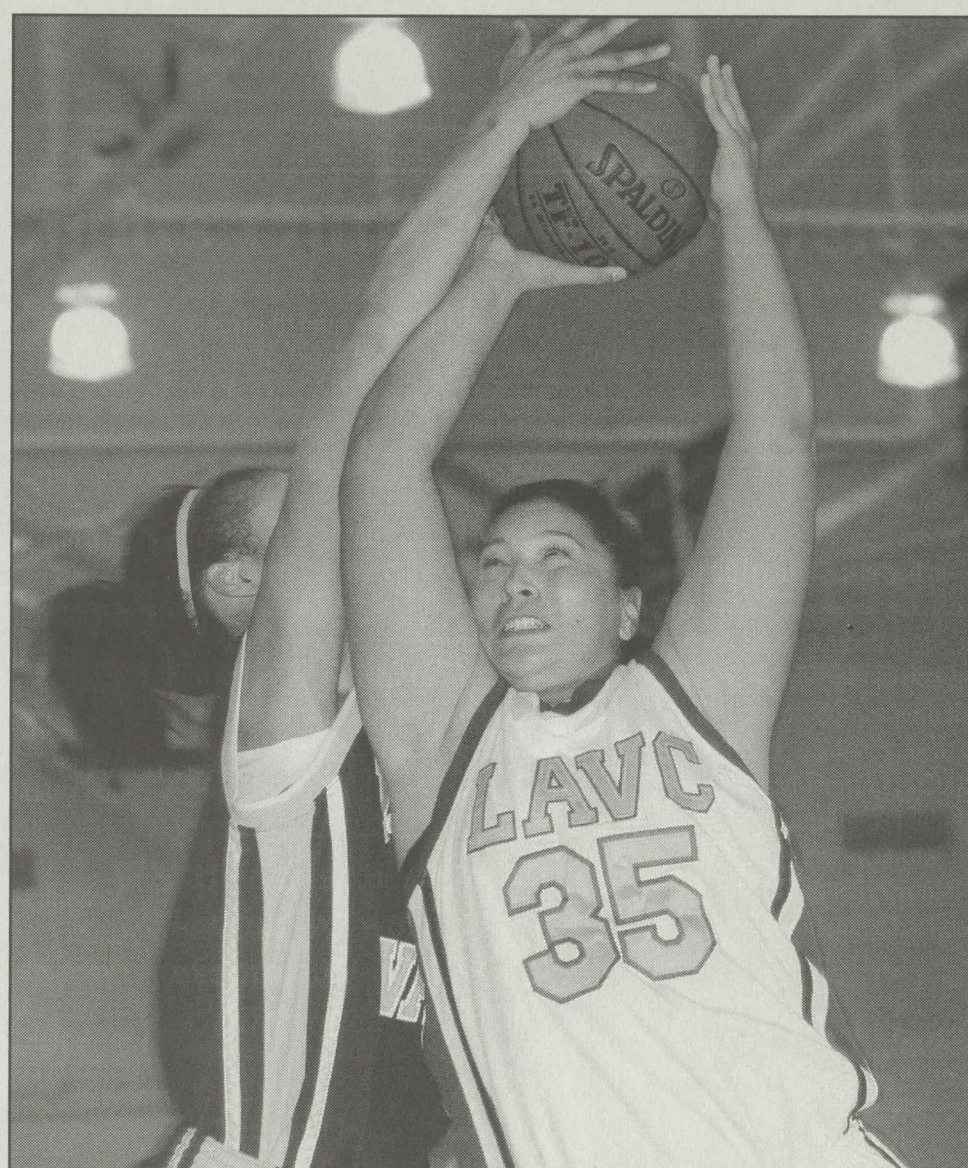
While most of the team was unsuccessful, Asaryan went 3 for 3 in a two-minute time span.

The Lasers still dominated by outscoring the Monarchs 30 to 9 during the first 10 minutes of the half.

Sloppy passing and errant fouls dominated the last five minutes of the game as the Monarchs lost their second straight game to drop the team's record to 2-2.

"We need more heart," forward Liseth Orrejo said. "We need to work hard, we need to not give up and keep our heads down and play."

As for the team's quick start and recent underperformance, Seja said, "We're a young team. We're still going over fundamentals; we just have games now. We're teaching during practice, we're teaching during games. The girls are going get there it just takes time."



STUFFED!-Valley's forward Liseth Orrejo has her shot attempt blocked by Irvine Valley College's Tiffany Smith during the Monarch's 82-48 loss Nov. 17.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

## CROSS COUNTRY FINALS

OSCAR CHICAS  
STAFF WRITER

In a season that has had its fair share of competitive ups and downs for the Valley College men's and women's cross country teams, both were eager and prepared to face the top teams the California Community College Cross Country Championships had to offer.

While competing at Woodward Park in Fresno for the state finals, the Lady Monarchs made it a team goal to try and place in the top 20.

"I thought the girls could get 14th, but they were able to get 12th," said

women's coach Yannick Allain. "We ran in a bunch, story of the season. Not many teams can do that."

The women's squad was a complete team, taking all six of its runners to the competition and according to coach Allain, "[The] last time Valley, as a team, was at state was in '95."

Mekka White-Edwards finished first for the squad in 51st place with a time of 20:08, and was followed by Elva Lopez in 70th place at 20:30. Trailing Lopez and Edwards was Sylvia Alburiga who finished in 90th place with a time of 20:57. Martha

Alvarado and Kathy Rodriguez finished the race consecutively in 101st and 102nd place, with times of 21:09.

**"The last time Valley, as a team, was at state was in '95."**

- coach Yannick Allain

To close out the squad, Erika Lopez finished in 119th place with 21:18.

The men's cross-country squad had only two representatives in freshmen

Andrew Salg and German Sanchez, who finished respectively in 27th and 138th place. Salg ran the four-mile trek in 21:12, while Sanchez finished with a time of 23:03 min.

In the end, Valley walked away with 12th place overall at state, placing them ahead of in-conference competitors College of the Canyons. Perennial powerhouse colleges Glendale College and Orange Coast College took top honors and finished in first and second place.

Men's head coach Francois Wolman, looking ahead to a repeat of positive results next year.

## Co-Captain Aims to Shoot "Lights Out" on Opponents

ERIC PATTEN  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The bright florescent lights in the Valley College basketball gym were silent minus a low humming. A single light near center-court briefly flickered, went dim and then illuminated.

In a way, the light was a lot like the Monarchs' men's basketball co-captain Demetrius Malone. After a season of brief flickers of success, the sophomore forward may be ready to help the team burst into illumination.

Malone, who lettered in football and basketball at Palmdale High School, says he's always taken some time to develop. In six years the 20-year-old Malone has grown from a tiny 5-foot 6-inch high school freshman to a 6-foot 5-inch athletic specimen.

"I was a late bloomer," he said. "In the last couple of years I've developed into a more athletic person."

Arguably, he has become the most athletic player on the Monarchs' 15-man roster.

An explosive leaper, with a 38-inch vertical, Malone can score from just about anywhere on the court.

Although he says his deep shooting still needs a little work, his primary offensive role may be on the perimeter because the Monarchs push the ball up the floor and at-

tempt to drive and dish with their guards. In preparation for this transition, he spent hours in the gym at UCLA this summer and overcame a fractured ankle.

"I was out about three weeks, but I came back and started working on fundamental stuff," said Malone, who added that the injury is completely healed.

The work in the summer proved even more necessary with the emergence of 6-foot 10-inch center Joseph Street and freshman Deon Johnson.

**"He's done a great job leading by word and example."**

- head coach Virgil Watson

Street and Johnson inadvertently created a new role that Malone affectionately calls, "Big little man."

The "big little man" does a bit of everything. In the Monarchs' 83-68 victory over San Diego City College he pulled down 11 boards to compliment an early season-high 24 points.

Both on and off the court, he credits some of his success to Valley head coach Virgil Watson.

"Coach believed in Ron [co-captain Ron Holden] and my perseverance. We weren't supposed to be where we are right now."

Naming Malone a captain was

an easy decision for Watson.

"[Malone] said he would step up and lead this team," said the two-year Valley coach. "He's done a great job leading by word and example."

As for school, Malone says Watson makes sure players are in study hall on a daily basis and attend class.

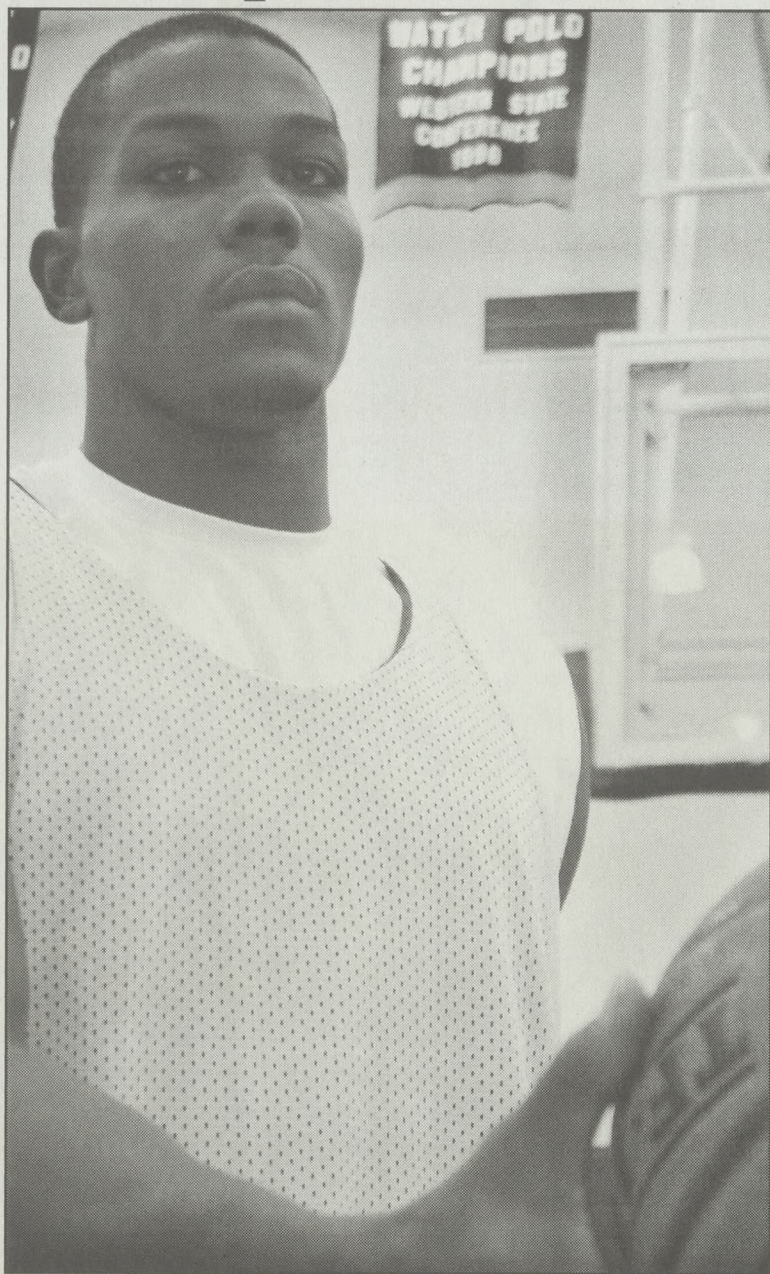
"Balancing basketball and school means you've got to do more than usual, but it all comes with the territory," Malone said, who is in his third year after red-shirting in 2005.

Malone's ambitions include majoring in communications and transferring to Pepperdine to prolong his collegiate basketball career and earn a bachelor's degree. If not, he may explore options overseas, which recently has become a new lease on life for many American players.

While he remains on this continent, Malone is anxious to see what will happen as the season unfolds because he says this team is different.

"We were friends first. So it's not like we've got a new group of guys together that you throw into the water and hope for them to swim. We were already there [together] we just have to get the basketball part down."

This newfound togetherness may help Malone set himself apart from Western State Conference foes, especially if he learns to shoot the lights out.



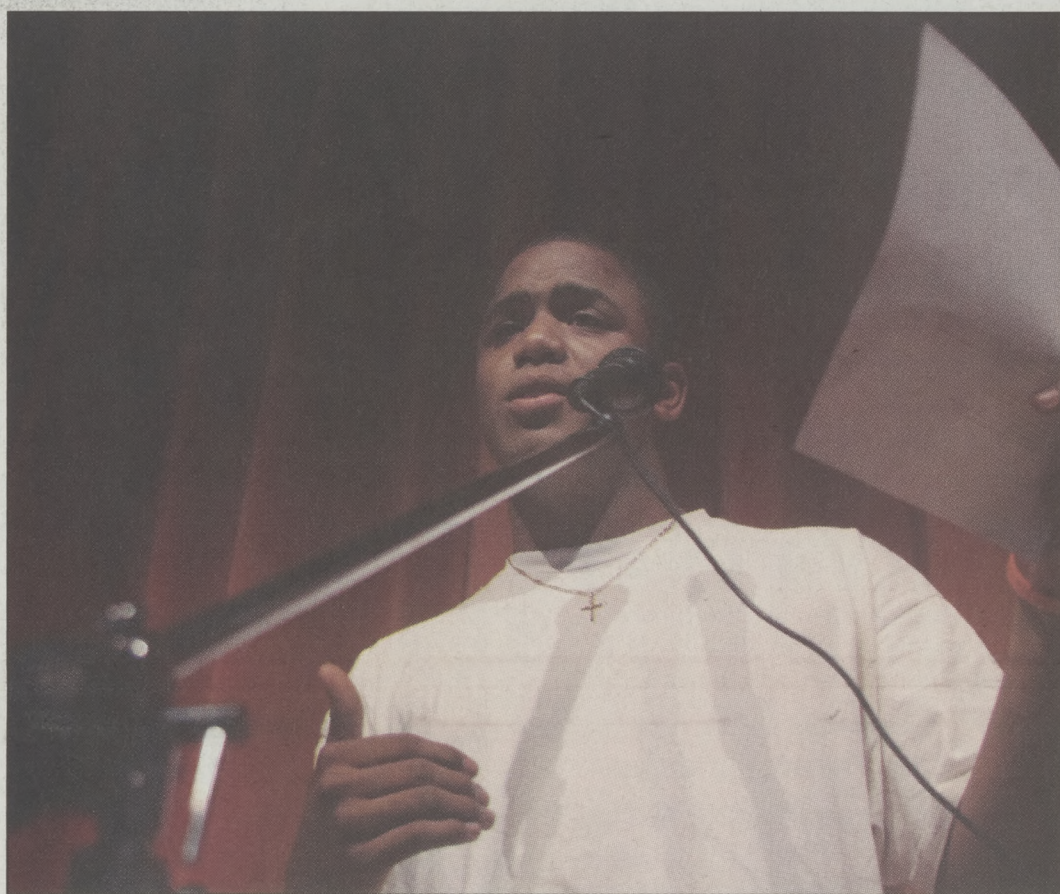
JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

GRIPPING THE GAME - Demetrius Malone is returning this season as the co-captain of the Monarchs.

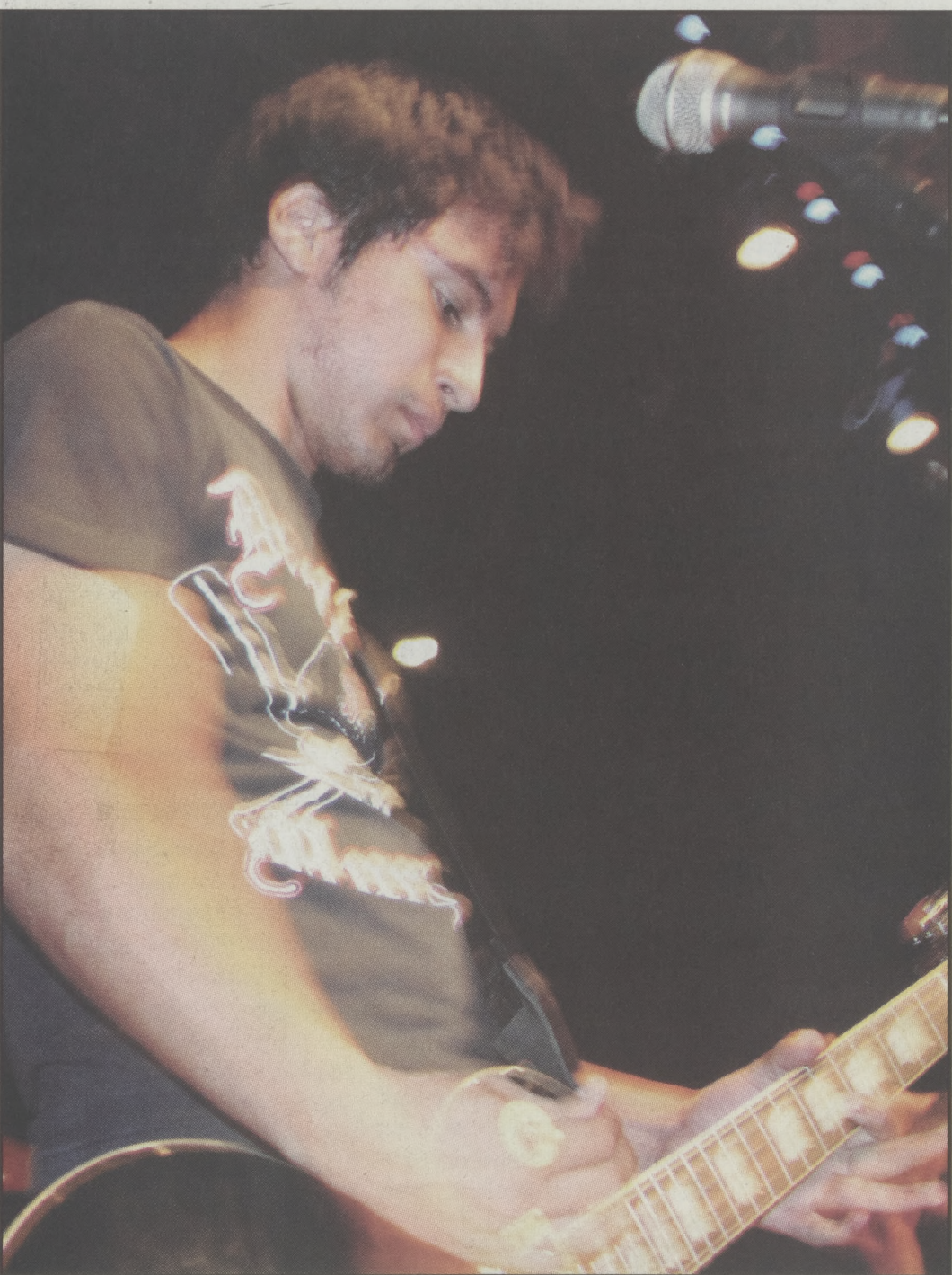




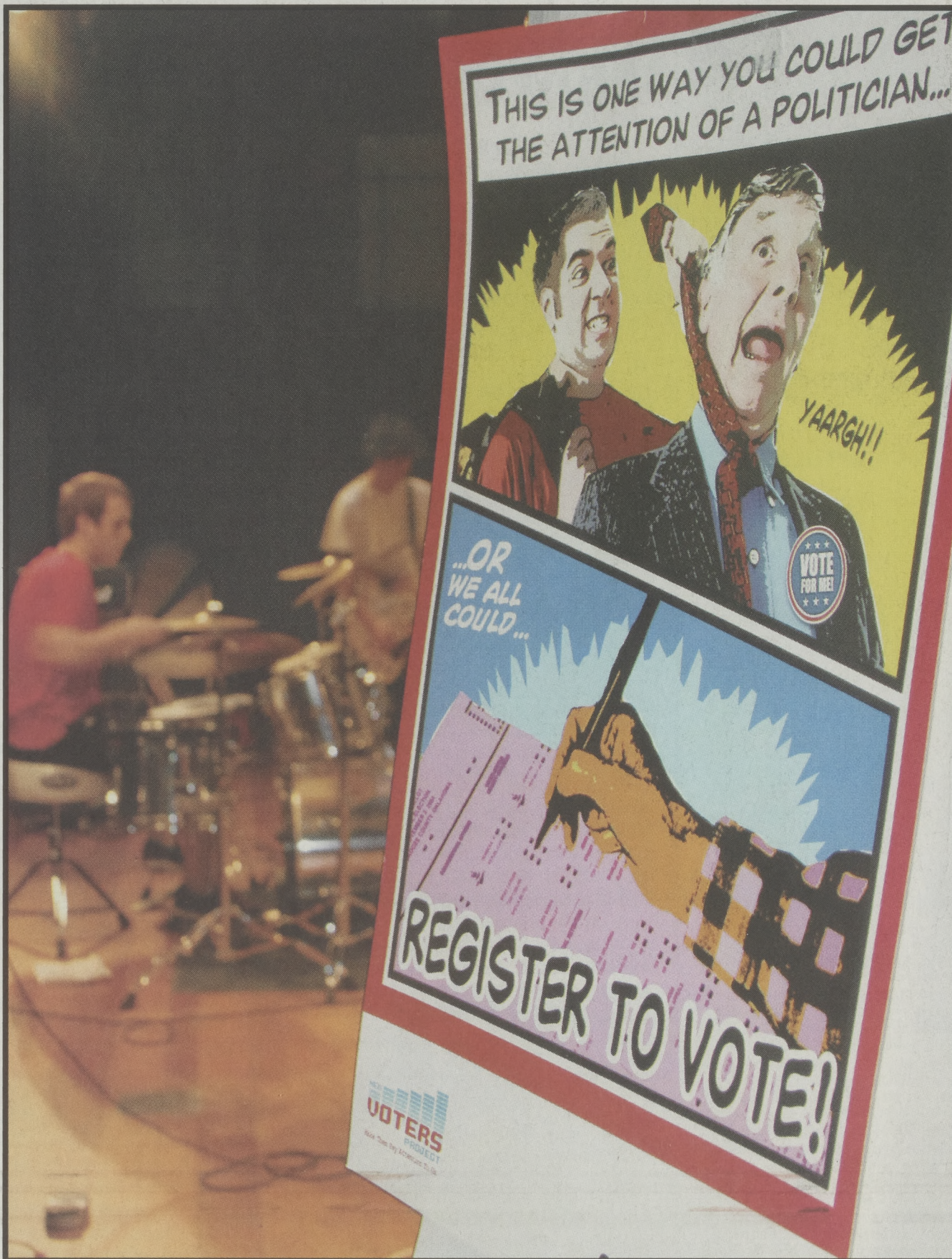
**SLAM DANCE OUTLET** - The energy of the music transferred to the crowd. The bands' self-expression was done through earsplitting guitars and relentless bass lines; students like Cristina Ramirez expressed themselves on a physical level.



**POWER OF THE YOUTH** - The political poetry of Jason Morales made clear "the youth has the responsibility and the power to direct this countries future through voting and education."



**CARRYING THE MESSAGE** - Freddy Tapia, lead vocals and guitar of Bad Bruno; a post punk-band that champions social change through action.



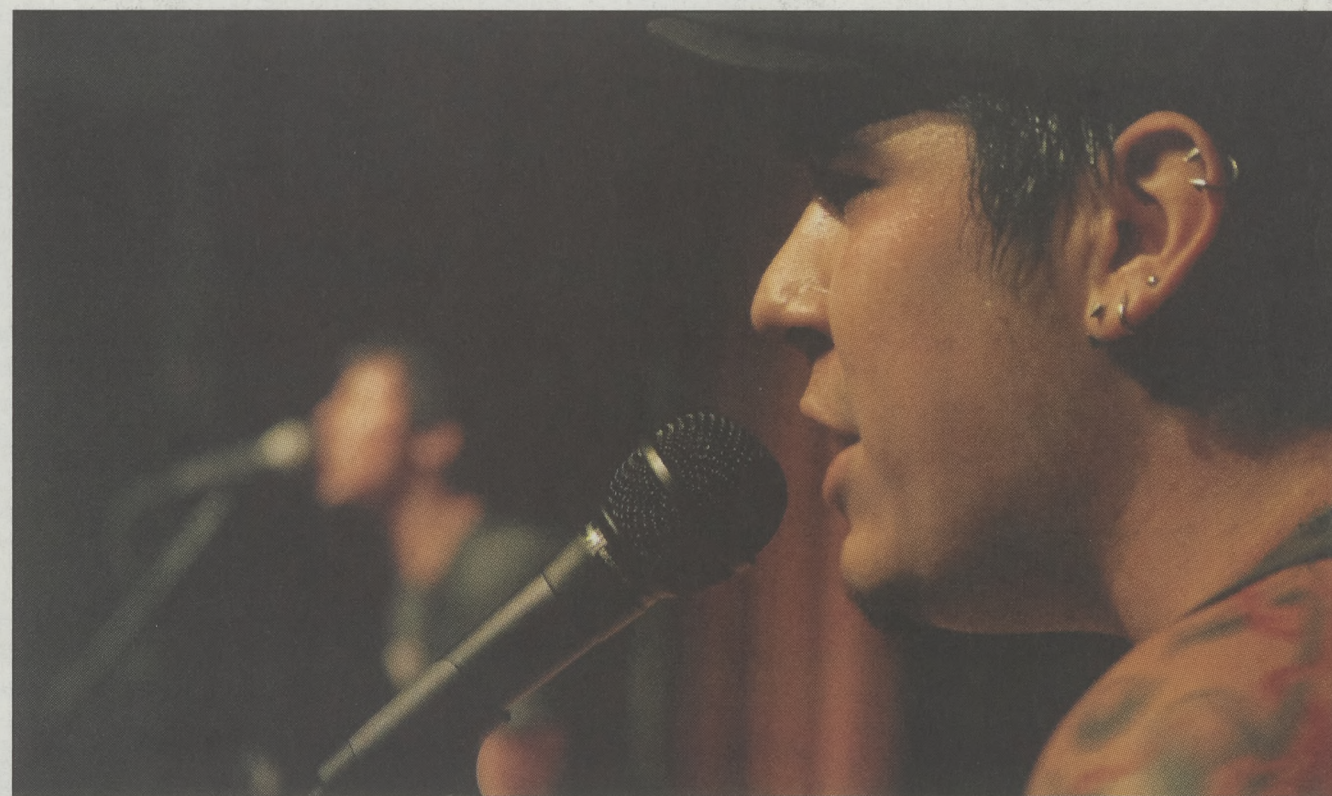
**REGISTER TO BE HEARD** - Encouraging students to register for next year's election was the main focus of this CalPIRG sponsored event. The organization gave students the opportunity to fill out "pledge to vote cards" which will remind students to vote next fall.

## VALLEY COLLEGE ROCKS THE VOTE

CalPIRG's Rock The Vote event last Thursday in Monarch Hall invited students to take charge of their political voice and make a commitment to vote. With elections less than a year away, it's imperative for America's youth to realize that their votes could set the political climate for the next four years.

The on-stage entertainment included an eclectic mix of music that ranged from punk to hip-hop and featured local bands Los Arambula, Blame the Noise, White Chocolate and Bad Bruno. The vociferously distorted guitars resonated through Monarch Hall and served as the soundtrack for the event.

Text And Photos By Jonathan Gibby



**SOCIAL BANDIT** - Anthony Parra provides vocal support during the chorus of Bad Bruno's song "Social Bandit." The song calls for reform, starting with the unity of the collective consciousness of the youth.